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## California's Court Interpreter Certification and Registration Testing Program:

### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q: How will the consultant select the interpreters who will participate in the confidential interviews?**

**A:** ALTA Language Services, the independent consultant, will draw a scientific sample of approximately 10% of the current pool of certified and registered interpreters from the database that is kept by the state. ALTA's sampling process will begin with a random draw, which they will further refine through stratified sampling techniques to ensure that the sample contains a representative cross-section of interpreters, including both staff and independent contractors, as well as interpreters from all designated languages and those non-designated languages in highest demand in the California courts.

**Q: How will ALTA maintain the confidentiality of study participants?**

**A:** ALTA will use a system based on assigning confidential identification numbers to the study participants. Participant responses will be linked to these numbers rather than names. No names or identification numbers will be given to the AOC or to any court, either during or following the research. The results of the interviews and surveys will be reported to the AOC in summary form only. Payments to interview participants will be made directly by ALTA to the participants. The AOC will not have access to any records or accounts involved.

**Q: What is AB 2227?**

**A:** Assembly Bill 2227 is legislation that is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting his action. The bill requires the Judicial Council to establish the Blue Ribbon Panel on Language Access in the Courts and specifies that the panel will consist of 15 members to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Senate Rules Committee, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Chairperson of the Judicial Council. It also requires the panel to report to the Legislature and the Judicial Council on the existing interpreter certification system. If signed by the Governor, the legislation would go into effect on January 1, 2007. The bill and its status may be accessed at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.

**Q: How will the study results be used?**

**A:** ALTA Language Services will deliver its report on the results of the study, including its recommendations concerning the current testing program and test instruments, to the Judicial Council. The council will refer the report for advisory comment to its Court Interpreter Advisory Panel, as well as to the Blue Ribbon Panel

on Language Access in the Courts, should the legislation establishing the panel be enacted. The council will then consider the consultant's report and recommendations along with the advice of the two advisory groups, and will decide what action to take.

*Contact:*

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*Additional resources:*

Court Interpreters Program Web site, [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters)